

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-17, 26 and 28-30 were pending. Claims 26 and 28-30 were rejected and Claims 9-17 were allowed. Claims 31-42 have been added.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview which she granted to Applicants' attorney on September 23, 2005.

In the telephone interview, the teachings of Ngan et al. were discussed. Initially, Applicants' attorney pointed out that Ngan et al. describe a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process (col. 3, line 14), whereas Claim 26 recites a "physical vapor deposition" (PVD) process.

Accordingly, Ngan et al. do not teach a "chamber comprising a titanium target" or "causing hydrogen to be absorbed into the titanium target," as recited in Claim 26.

In the portion of Ngan et al. cited by the Examiner (col. 3, lines 16-34), Ngan et al. teach depositing a TiN layer (col.3, lines 13-14). Claim 26 recites "causing a titanium layer to be deposited onto the substrate."

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that she agreed with Applicants' attorney and stated that Claim 26 appears to be allowable, subject to a further search.

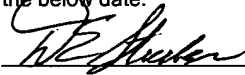
New Claims 31-35 depend from Claim 26 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Claims 36-42 are new and are supported by the specification at page 3, lines 1-10, and page 6, line 21, to page 8, line 22, for example. Claim 36 recites, for example, a "chamber comprising a titanium target," "causing a titanium layer to be deposited onto the substrate by physical vapor deposition" and "while the plasma is active, flowing a gas comprising hydrogen into the physical vapor deposition chamber" (emphasis added). Claim 36 is therefore allowable over Ngan et al. for at least the reasons expressed above. Claim 36 is also allowable over Hartig et al., Shinriki et al., Cava et al., Havemann et al., Lin et al., Yamadai, Baum et al., Besser et al., Freeman et al., Stevens, Kitch et al., Wada et al., Takayama, and Teng et al. for the reasons expressed in the amendments dated May 30, 2002, November 26, 2002, October 13, 2003, May 24, 2004, and January 12, 2005, and the arguments set forth in those amendments are incorporated herein by reference. Claims 37-42 depend from Claim 36.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 9-17, 26 and 28-42. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8201.

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11/9/05

Date of Signature

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